

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.  
PCT/GB2004/004705

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 H04N9/31

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 293 202 A (KIMURA TSUTOMU ET AL) 6 October 1981 (1981-10-06) column 2, line 38 - column 3, line 8 figure 1	1,5
Y	US 5 978 142 A (BLACKHAM GEOFFREY HOWARD ET AL) 2 November 1999 (1999-11-02) cited in the application column 4, line 20 - column 5, line 4 column 6, line 40 - line 47 figures 2,9	1-8
Y	WO 98/20475 A (LASER POWER CORP) 14 May 1998 (1998-05-14) page 17, line 23 - line 32 figure 2 page 8, line 9 - page 10, line 26 ----- -/-	1-8

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or the theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*8\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 January 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/01/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Schenke, C

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

/GB2004/004705

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>EP 1 117 080 A (SONY CORP)  18 July 2001 (2001-07-18)  abstract  paragraph '0026! - paragraph '0035!  figure 1</p> <p>-----</p>	1-8

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/004705

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4293202	A	06-10-1981	JP 1351723 C	11-12-1986
			JP 55067722 A	22-05-1980
			JP 61019018 B	15-05-1986
			DE 2944602 A1	29-05-1980
US 5978142	A	02-11-1999	GB 2317290 A	18-03-1998
			CA 2214863 A1	11-03-1998
			EP 0829747 A1	18-03-1998
WO 9820475	A	14-05-1998	AU 5095498 A	29-05-1998
			WO 9820475 A1	14-05-1998
EP 1117080	A	18-07-2001	JP 2001249399 A	14-09-2001
			EP 1117080 A2	18-07-2001
			US 2001005262 A1	28-06-2001